THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI) (a) Channel-wise average daily listeners of AIR Banglore are as follows:—

SI. No.	Channel	Number of listeners
1.	Primary Channel (Medium Wave) Vividh Bharati	65.32 lakhs 21.38
2.	(Medium Wave) Rainbow (FM)	lakhs 36.67 lakhs
3.	Amurthavarshini (FM)	1.66 lakhs
4.		

(b) and (c) Amruthavarshini is a Classical Music Channel". This channel is airing mainly 'Carnatic Classical Music' and 'Hindustani Classical Music' for four hour daily from 6.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. A24-hour Carnatic Music Channel on the DTH receivable through TV set is proposed to launched in the second half of 2006.

Kannada news on DD channel

1416. SHRI KB. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has requested to air Kannada news on DD-I channel; and

(b) if so, the status of the above request?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BORADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI) (a) and (b): No, Sir. However, a request for extension of terrestrial time for Karnataka on DD-I was received from the Government of Karnataka. Prasar Bharati has not found it possible to accede to this request due to various constraints, for the present.

Policy of FM radio stations

1417. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new policy relating to starting of FM radio stations envisages setting up 336 such stations in 90 cities, if so, the reasons for which rural areas have been left out especially where radio is the primary source of entertainment and information;

(b) whether the All india Radio network covers the entire rural areas, hilly terrain and far-flung areas in North-East and Ladakh; and